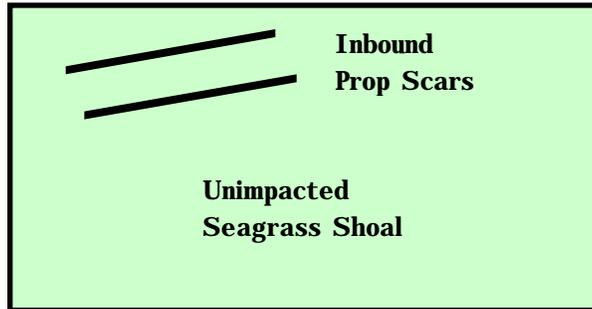


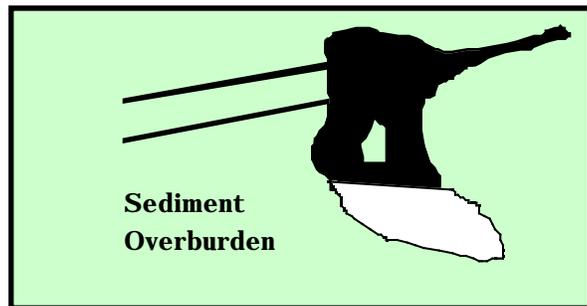
Seagrass Prop Scarring



These diagrams were created to document the sequence of events that occurred when a twin-engine boat grounded on a seagrass flat within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. First, the boat propellers dredged parallel prop scars across the seagrass flat (above left).



Second, when the boat operator attempted to "power off" using the engines, a barren sandy crater known as a "blow-hole" was created (above). An exit track was also dredged leaving behind an intact "island" of seagrass turf and a propwash blow-hole



Finally, the propwash excavation by the boat engines caused sediment to become deposited behind the boat on top of unimpacted seagrass (above). Blow-out scars, entrance and exit tracks, and sediment deposits are features of grassbeds that have been impacted by boaters.